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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Loesje Maria Jacoba Van Wershoven

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PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, HIEP

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2816

DATE MAILED: 01/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/02,124

Applicant(s)

VAN WERSHOVEN, LOESJE
MARIA JACOBA

Examiner

Hiep Nguyen

Art Unit

2816

mw

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The "driver" circuit (4) does not have an input terminal. Figure 1 is a schematic of an IC circuit comprising components and connections between components. Thus, the "core region", the "periphery region", the "Vssc contact" and "Vssq contact" cannot be clearly defined in the schematic. Further more, according to figure 1, the driver (4) is not a slew-rate controlled driver. Therefore, the limitations "core region", "periphery region" of claim 1, "output driver is slew-rate controlled" in claim 3 must be shown or the features canceled from the claims. No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Correction and/or clarification is required.

Regarding claim 1, the recitation "at least one output driver without substrate contacts" is indefinite because it is not clear it is meant by. It is not clear which transistors of the output driver (4) that does not have substrate contacts. The applicant is requested to explain what is the "substrate contacts". The recitations "a core region with a Vssc" and "a periphery region provided with at least one Vssq contact" are indefinite because they are misdescriptive. Figure 1 of the present application show a schematic of an integrated circuit. There is no indication showing that there are "a core region" and "a periphery region" as recited. It is not clear why the broken-line circles (14) and (15) are the ground bounce and resonance. Also, numbers (6) and

(7) of figure 1 apparently are circuit nodes. Thus, there is no distinction between terminal 6 (Vssq contact) and terminal 7 (Vssc contact). They are just circuit nodes. Moreover, it is not known the exact locations of the "Vssc contact" and the "Vssq contact" thus the connection of the "a resistance" cannot be achieved. The recitation "characterized in that a resistance (11) with a value lying between 100 and 300 ohms **provided** each Vssq contact and Vssc contact" is indefinite because it is misdescriptive. The **broken-line resistance** (11) is not a **discrete resistor** connected between two points. Resistance (11) is the "natural" or parasitic resistance existed between any two points on the substrate similar to the parasitic inductances (8) and (9).

Regarding claim 3, the recitation " wherein the at least one output driver is slew rate controlled" is indefinite because it is misdescriptive. Figure 1 of the present application shows that driver (4) has no input terminal and no devices connected to the input for controlling the slew rate.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claim# 1, insofar as understood, is rejected under 35 U.S.C.102 (e) as being anticipated by Martin et al. (US Pat. 6,507,225).

Regarding claim 1, figure 2 of Martin shows an IC circuit having an output driver (126) "without substrate contacts" having a resistance (130) provided between a "Vssc contact" in a "core region" and a "Vssq contact" in a "periphery region" This resistance has a value of 100 Ohms (col. 4, lines 56-57).

Claims 1 and 2, insofar as understood, is rejected under 35 U.S.C.102 (e) as being anticipated by Bridgewater, Jr. (US Pat. 6,307,401).

Regarding claim 1, figure 4 of Bridgewater shows an IC circuit having an output driver (102) "without substrate contacts" having a resistance (122) provided between a "Vssc contact" in a "core region" and a "Vssq contact" in a "periphery region". This resistance has a value of 100-300 Ohms (col. 7, lines 14-15).

Regarding claim 2, output driver (102) is not slew-rate controlled and resistor (122) has a value (300 Ohms) greater than 250 Ohms.

Claims 1 and 3, insofar as understood, is rejected under 35 U.S.C.102 (b) as being anticipated by Asprey et al. (US Pat. 5,193,200).

Regarding claim 1, figure 3 of Asprey shows an IC circuit having an output driver (314) "without substrate contacts" having a resistance (312) provided between a "Vssc contact" in a "core region" and a "Vssq contact" in a "periphery region". This resistance has a value of 100 Ohms (col. 9, lines 30-33).

Regarding claim 3, output driver (314) is slew-rate controlled and resistor (312) has a value (100 Ohms) smaller than 250 Ohms. Note that the resistor and the capacitor (304) at the output of the driver (314) control the slew rate of the output signal.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Hiep Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-0127. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7:30 A.M.to 4:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Callahan, can be reached on (703) 746-5716. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-6251.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Hiep Nguyen

01-08-04



TUAN T. LAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER